

**WHAT IS (PCT) CLAIMED IS:**

1        1. A method for operating a communications network (20) wherein a  
2        multicast/broadcast multimedia service is available over an air interface (38) to a  
3        remote unit (40), a media flow (34) of the multicast/broadcast multimedia service being  
4        subject to unidirectional header compression logic at a compressor (25), the method  
5        characterized by:

6            receiving a request (62) indicating that the remote unit (40) seeks access to the  
7        multicast/broadcast multimedia service; and, in response thereto,

8            generating, external to the header compression logic, a trigger signal (64) which  
9        is applied to the compressor (25) to trigger a lowest compression state of the header  
10       compression logic.

1        2. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the trigger signal (64)  
2        prior to generation an initial packet of the media flow (34).

1        3. The method of claim 1, wherein, absent receipt of the external signal, the  
2        header compression logic is configured to start the lowest compression state upon  
3        receiving an initial packet of the media flow (34) and is configured to refresh at the  
4        lowest compression state upon expiration of a timeout.

1        4. The method of claim 1, further comprising also generating the trigger signal  
2        (64) to trigger a transition to the lowest compression state of the header compression  
3        logic upon receipt of an indication of a decompression problem which has occurred at  
4        the remote unit (40).

1        5. A method for operating a communications network (20) wherein a  
2        multicast/broadcast multimedia service is available over an air interface (38) to a  
3        remote unit (40), a media flow (34) of the multicast/broadcast multimedia service being  
4        subject to unidirectional header compression logic at a compressor (25), the method  
5        characterized by:

6            receiving an indication (92) of a decompression problem which has occurred at  
7        the remote unit (40); and, in response thereto,

8 generating, external to the header compression logic, a trigger signal (64) which  
9 is applied to the compressor (25) to trigger a lowest compression state of the header  
10 compression logic.

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1 6. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the header compression logic is  
2 configured to perform robust header compression (ROHC) in a unidirectional mode and  
3 the lowest compression state is the Initialization and Refresh (IR) state.

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1 7. The method of claim 4 or claim 5, wherein the decompression problem is  
2 compression initialization failure or compression static context damage.

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1 8. The method of claim 4 or claim 5, wherein the indication of a decompression  
2 problem is an attempt by the remote unit (40) to reinitiate access to the  
3 multicast/broadcast multimedia service.

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1 9. The method of claim 1 or claim 5, wherein the trigger signal (64) is derived  
2 using one or more broadcast/multicast channel acquisition events initiated by the  
3 remote unit (40).

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1 10. A communications network (20) comprising:  
2 a multicast/broadcast multimedia server (21) which makes a multicast/broadcast  
3 multimedia service available to a remote unit (40) over an air interface (38);  
4 a header compressor (25) which subjects a media flow (34) of the  
5 multicast/broadcast multimedia service to unidirectional header compression logic for  
6 compressing a headers of the media flow (34);

7 characterized by:

8 a network node (60) which is arranged, upon receiving a request (62) indicating  
9 that the remote unit (40) seeks access to the multicast/broadcast multimedia service, to  
10 generate, external to the header compression logic, a trigger signal (64) which is  
11 applied to the compressor (25) to trigger a lowest compression state of the header  
12 compression logic.

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1 11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the network node (60) generates the  
2 trigger signal (64) prior to generation of an initial packet of the media flow (34).

1       12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein, absent receipt of the external signal, the  
2 header compression logic is configured to start the lowest compression state upon  
3 receiving an initial packet of the media flow (34) and is configured to refresh at the  
4 lowest compression state upon expiration of a timeout.

1       13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the network node (60) also generates the  
2 trigger signal (64) to trigger a transition to the lowest compression state of the header  
3 compression logic upon receipt of an indication (92) of a decompression problem which  
4 has occurred at the remote unit (40).

1       14. A communications network (20) comprising:  
2           a multicast/broadcast multimedia server (21) which makes a multicast/broadcast  
3 multimedia service available to a remote unit (40) over an air interface (38);  
4           a header compressor (25) which subjects a media flow (34) of the  
5 multicast/broadcast multimedia service to unidirectional header compression logic for  
6 compressing a headers of the media flow (34);  
7           characterized by:  
8            a network node (60) which is arranged, upon receiving an indication (92) of a  
9 decompression problem which has occurred at the remote unit (40), to generate,  
10 external to the header compression logic, a trigger signal (64) which is applied to the  
11 compressor (25) to trigger a lowest compression state of the header compression logic.

1       15. The apparatus of claim 10 or claim 14, wherein the header compression  
2 logic is configured to perform robust header compression (ROHC) in a unidirectional  
3 mode and the lowest compression state is the Initialization and Refresh (IR) state.

1       16. The apparatus of claim 13 or claim 14, wherein the decompression problem  
2 is compression initialization failure or compression static context damage.

1       17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the indication of a decompression  
2 problem is an attempt by the remote unit (40) to reinitiate access to the  
3 multicast/broadcast multimedia service.

1        18. The apparatus of claim 10 or claim 14, wherein the trigger signal (64) is  
2 derived using one or more broadcast/multicast channel acquisition events initiated by  
3 the remote unit (40).

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1        19. The apparatus of claim 10 or claim 14, wherein the network node (60)  
2 which generates the trigger signal (64) is a node at which the multicast/broadcast  
3 multimedia server (21) resides.

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1        20. The apparatus of claim 10 or claim 14, wherein the network node (60)  
2 which generates the trigger signal (64) is one of a packet data serving node node  
3 (PDSN).

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1        21. A remote unit (40) which receives a multicast/broadcast multimedia service  
2 from a communications network (20) over an air interface (38) communications  
3 network (20), a media flow (34) of the multicast/broadcast multimedia service being  
4 subject to unidirectional header compression logic for compressing a headers of the  
5 media flow (34), the remote unit (40) comprising a transceiver for receiving the media  
6 flow (34) and being characterized by:

7        a decompressor (25) which is arranged, upon encountering a decompression  
8 problem with the media flow (34), to send a request to reinitiate access to the  
9 multicast/broadcast multimedia service to the communications network (20) with an  
10 expectation that the request to reinitiate access will trigger a lowest compression state  
11 of the header compression logic.

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1        22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the decompression problem is  
2 compression initialization failure or compression static context damage.

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1        23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the header compression logic is  
2 configured to perform robust header compression (ROHC) in a unidirectional mode and  
3 the lowest compression state is the Initialization and Refresh (IR) state.